

1.(Currently Amended) A casing gripping clamp, A blow-out preventer for operating between a
spear of a tubular gripping tool and a tubular gripped by the tool, the blow-out preventer
comprising:

a spear for insertion into the joint of casing, the spear having an axis and an axial passage
for delivering drilling fluid into the casing string;

grippers that are radially movable for gripping engagement with a joint of casing of a
casing string;

a primary seal mounted on the spear that seals between the spear and an inner wall of the
joint of casing; and

ana secondary expandable seal carried on the spear axially above the primary seal and free of
contact with the primary seal, the and secondary seal being expandable to seal between the spear
and the tubular's inner wall of the joint of casing, the expandable secondary seal being operable as
a back up to a the primary seal operable between the spear and the tubular's inner wall.

2.(Currently Amended) The blow-out preventer casing gripping clamp of claim 1 wherein the
expandable secondary seal is a passive seal operable by pressure differential about across the
secondary seal due to a failure of the primary seal to contain drilling fluid pressure below the
primary seal.

3.(Currently Amended) The blow-out preventer casing gripping clamp of claim 2 wherein the
expandable primary and secondary seals is are cup seals cup.

4. (Currently Amended) The blow-out-preventer casing gripping clamp of claim 23 wherein the expandable secondary seal is positioned in a backup position on the spear relative to has substantially the same dimensions as the primary seal.

5. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer of claim 1 wherein the expandable seal is selectively operable by other than normal operational fluid pressure in the tubular to create a seal between the spear and the tubular's inner wall.

6. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer of claim 5 further comprising a drive system to expand the expandable seal.

7. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer of claim 5 wherein the drive system includes hydraulics.

8. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer of claim 5 wherein the expandable seal is extrudable by pressure applied by a drive system.

9. (Currently Amended) A tubular casing gripping clamp for gripping an oilfield tubular a joint of casing of a casing string, the tubular-gripping clamp comprising:

a spear having an axis and an axial passage for delivering drilling fluid into a casing string, the spear adapted sized to extend into the bore of a tubular casing joint to be gripped;
gripping means grippers drivable that are radially movable to engage and grip the tubular casing joint to be gripped;

a primary seal element about the spear to create a seal between the spear and the inner wall of the tubular casing joint, the primary seal element being expandable urged radially outward relative to the axis of the spear into sealing engagement with the inner wall of the casing joint in response to at least operationally generated drilling fluid pressure differential in the tubular casing string; and

a secondary seal element about the spear above and axially spaced out of contact with the primary seal element, the secondary seal element being selectively operable to create a seal between the spear and the inner wall of the tubular casing joint in the event the primary seal element fails.

10. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 9 wherein the clamp is an external-type clamp.

11. (Currently Amended) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 9 wherein the clamp is an internal-type clamp, and wherein each of the primary and secondary seal elements has substantially the same dimensions and comprises a cup seal.

12. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 9 wherein the expandable seal is selectively operable by other than normal operational fluid pressure in the tubular to create a seal between the spear and the tubular's inner wall.

13. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 12 further comprising a drive system to expand the secondary seal.

14. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 12 wherein the secondary seal is extrudable by pressure applied by a drive system.

15. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 12 wherein the drive system includes a feature operable based on hydraulics.

16. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 15 further comprising a mud flow path through the spear and hydraulic pressure from the mud flow path acts on the drive system.

17. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 15 further comprising:

a mud flow path through the spear;

a fluid communication conduit to communicate fluid pressure from the mud flow path and the drive system; and

a control for creating a hydraulic pressure in the mud flow path capable of actuating the drive system to expand the secondary seal.

18. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 15 wherein hydraulic pressure independent from a mud flow path through the spear is used to operate the drive system.

19. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 9 further comprising:

a mud flow path through the spear; and

a hydraulically actuated drive system for causing expansion of the secondary seal, the drive system including a valve in the mud flow path sealable to create fluid pressure in the mud flow path sufficient to actuate the drive system.

20. (Withdrawn) The tubular gripping clamp of claim 19 wherein the valve includes a seat sealable by a launchable device sealable on the seat.

21. (Withdrawn) A blow out preventer assembly for operating between a tubular gripping tool and a tubular gripped by the tool, the blow out preventer assembly comprising:

an expandable seal carried on the tubular gripping tool and expandable to seal between the tool and the tubular's inner wall; and

a drive system for selectively driving the expansion of the expandable seal.

22. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 21 wherein the drive system is a hydraulic drive system.

23. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein the hydraulic drive system is operable by drilling mud.

24. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein the hydraulic drive system operates based on hydraulic pressure from a mud flow path through the tool.

25. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein hydraulic pressure independent from a mud flow path through the tool is used to operate the drive system.

26. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein mud pressure is used to inflate the seal.

27. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 22 wherein the expandable seal includes an extrudable ring packer and the hydraulic drive system includes a fixed retainer ring on one side of the ring packer and a piston ring on the opposite side of the ring packer.

28. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 27 wherein the piston ring is secured by a shear pin selected to shear, to permit movement of the piston ring, at fluid pressures in excess of a selected fluid pressure.

29. (Withdrawn) The blow out preventer assembly of claim 27 further comprising a ratchet arrangement to lock the piston ring in its position.

30. (Withdrawn) A method for shutting in a well while a tubular gripping tool remains positioned in the upper end of a tubular string extending into the well, the method comprising:

providing an expandable seal about a spear of the tubular gripping tool that can be expanded selectively to seal between the spear and the inner diameter of a tubular and selectively expanding the seal to shut in the well.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 wherein the seal is selectively expanded as a back up to a primary passive seal on the spear.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 wherein the seal is selectively expanded after a primary passive seal on the spear has failed.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 wherein the seal is selectively expanded during a well incident when an attempt to remove the tubular gripping tool from an end of a tubular has failed.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 wherein the expandable seal can be expanded selectively by hydraulics.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 further comprising increasing fluid pressure in a mud flow path through the tool to selectively expand the seal.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein a sealing device is launched through the mud flow path to seal against a seat in the mud flow path to cause an increase in fluid pressure.